

# **SGARS President's Report 2009**

2009 has been a busy year for The St George Amateur Radio Society with our regular meetings, field excursions, contesting, project building, regular radio nets, and much more.

## **Mt Bindo Repeater**

Restructuring of the site fees charged by the Lands Department meant a welcome reduction in the cost of maintain our repeater site at Mt Bindo, west of Sydney. The old wet cells finally failed and have been replaced with temporary VRLA batteries. Many thanks to Paul VK2ZSA for maintaining the repeater site, as well others who have assisted Paul.

## **Regular Meetings**

Our regular monthly meetings have been well attended with a variety of different activities each month, including presentations on propagation, antennas and the magic 6m band, satellites, APRS, LF direction finding & cave communication techniques, servos, generators & motors, home brew equipment, digital modes and SSTV, WICEN NSW, Microwave communication, morse code, vintage & military radio..

My thanks go to all those who contributed including Roger VK2ZRH, Max VK2ARZ, Dave VK2TDN, Brain VK2GCE, Ross VK2VVV, Peter VK2JTV, Mark VK2XGK, Brain VK2GCE, Rob VK2ZRP, Harry VK2ZHP, Nigel VK2VK2FNIT.

A special thanks to Peter VK2EMU for opening up the hall and providing the tea, coffee and biscuits, and those who assist with tables, chairs etc.

## **Project Building**

Some of our members have got their hands dirty and built up a fox hunting antenna for 2 metres or a quad turnstile antenna for 6 metres.

## **Field Excursions**

In addition to our regular monthly meeting, it was good to see many members also participating in one or more of field events, usually held on the weekend.

The Radio Museum at Kurrajong was very interesting and entertaining followed by a social lunch at the nearby watering hole. Thank you to

2 metre Fox Hunting held at Moore Reserve gave members a chance to test out their tracking skills and nearly constructed fox hunting antennas. My appreciation goes to Steve VK2TSB, Jacob VK2FIXX & Tracey VK2FARM for providing the fox and giving of their time. Also thank you to Peter VK2JTV and everyone who participated.

Our club was represented in the John Moyle by Brain VK2GCE, Peter VK2EMU and Owen VK2AEJ, and the Shires Contest by Brian and Peter.

## **Regular Nets**

Every Thursday evening we hold a club net on our local repeater VK2RLE, starting at 8.00 PM local time. Peter VK2JTV has done an excellent job as the net controller, including introducing digital format to the net at 8.30 PM, including SSTV and PSK modes. Hopefully we will hear more members on the net in 2010.

## **Club Grants**

SGARS was successful in obtaining two grants from the WIA Club Grants Scheme, one for the purchase of a digital projector for training and presentations and another to upgrade the facilities at the Mt Bindo Repeater Site.

## **Training and Assessments**

During the year, Brian VK2GCE has received a number of enquiries for Foundation Licence training and assessment, mostly from well outside our area. Brian has been working steadily towards a strategy for our club to provide training and assessment, with the assistance of other assessors, in 2010.

## **Jamboree On The Air**

Many of members assisted John VK2 to setup and operate an amateur radio station during the Boree Regatta, held at Kurnell in October. The theme for JOTA 2009 was green environment conservation, so the station power was supplied from solar panels and a wind generator.

## **Fund Raising**

Thank you to Peter VK2EMU for his efforts in organising the Christmas Pie Drive again in 2009, to those who participated in the pie drive and our regular raffles during the year.

## **Publicity**

In addition to the regular ARNSW Sunday broadcast item, we have extended our publicity to community radio stations 2NBC and 2SSR, and the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader. Thank you to Peter VK2EMU for his gift with words.

## **Dragnet Magazine**

Our regular club magazine continues in its fine tradition by our hard working editor Brian VK2GCE. Thank you to Brian and all those who have contributed.

## **Conclusion**

2009 has been a busy year for SGARS and I am looking forward to another action packed year in 2010. Thank you to all the members as without members, SAGRS would not exist, and welcome to our new members. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and participating in as many events as you can.

73s Paul VK2GX

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